

Reactions to Domestic News

Trying to Piece Out the Mexican Puzzle

THE Senate's recent authorization of a sweeping investigation of outrages against Americans and American property in Mexico with the addendum, "To report what, if any, means should be taken to prevent such outrages," opens wider the book of relations with the southern neighbor who has persistently been the cause of concern to this country. The tone of most newspapers the nation over is favorable to the official action just taken at Washington, whether the result be amity or intervention.

"The Cincinnati Inquirer" hopes for an amicable settlement, although realizing the difficulties ahead: "The Mexican puzzle is intricate, but time may furnish a solution not altogether unsatisfactory to the peoples of the two republics. At present the situation continues to be complex and troublesome."

"German commercial propaganda is quite as much alive, and quite as dangerous, as it was before and during the war. It is a something to be reckoned with, and, in a certain sense, the German has the advantage. Mexican leaders and populace generally do not love us. They are suspicious of our motives. Carranza is vacillating, stubborn, arrogant and treacherous. Obregon, a really strong man, frankly is anti-American. But all of these conditions can be successfully coped with. We are neighbors and we should be able to live together in peace and harmony, and with mutual profit developing from our commercial relations."

"The Los Angeles Times" plainly is for a final showdown:

"Germany had not destroyed with all of her ruthless submarine warfare one-tenth of the American lives or ruined nearly so much property as the Mexicans have destroyed and ruined; yet Carranzistic Mexico is coddled and encouraged in the belief that America will not protect the lives of her citizens or even the sanctity of her flag."

"The Charleston News and Courier" sees no definite solution of the situation ahead, but rather more complications:

"Ambassador Fletcher's testimony before the House Rules Committee regarding the situation in Mexico can hardly be said to throw much light on what had better be done with regard to that unhappy country. He says, on the one hand, that although about fifty American citizens have been killed or outraged in Mexico since 1917, not one arrest or conviction is known to have resulted; but, on the other hand, he affirms that relations between the two countries have improved during the past three years, and that there has been a 'wonderful submission' to the Carranza rule in all the sections which the Carranza government controls."

"This is probably a fair illustration of the puzzling results sure to follow from any careful and thorough examination of the Mexican problem. The more one studies it the more puzzling it appears and the more difficult becomes the task of working out a scientific solution. . . . We may accept as accurate Mr. Fletcher's statement that Carranza is making headway, and that it will do no good to withdraw our recognition of him; but these facts are of slight practical importance beside the fact that Americans are still being murdered in Mexico and their murderers are not being punished. Soon or late these murders are going to make our people 'see red.'"

After describing the oil situation

About the only thing left



—From The Birmingham Age-Herald

in Mexico, as concerns the American investor and operator, "The Pittsburgh Gazette-Times" sums up:

"Foreign capitalists would gladly be relieved from the payment of what amounts to double taxation for the safety of their property. Persons who denounce these capitalists as engaging in conspiracy and attempting to involve the United States should ask themselves what they would do under identical circumstances."

"The Chickering Press," of Albany, calls Mexican methods

"impudence of an ill-bred neighbor," and concludes: "Seriously, the United States is able to make Mexico behave itself. It has only to decide to do so. When, if ever, will the murder of an American in Mexico be anything more than a case of contributory negligence?" "The New York Times" is against armed intervention in settling the embargo. "Open the skeleton closet," suggests "The New York Sun," which paper asserts "the Senatorial investigation ordered last week comes several years too late."

Welcome, Sir Edward!

VISCOUNT GREY, of Fallodon, the man who did more than any other to avert the European war of 1914 and the greatest authority on fly-fishing in the world, is coming to the United States as the Ambassador of His Britannic Majesty.

Viscount Grey is well known to Americans as one of the foremost statesmen of the world. It may not be known to Americans that he was the first sponsor of a league of nations, before the nations had begun to league themselves together against other nations. In 1911 Viscount Grey, then Sir Edward Grey, sponsored the plans for arbitration treaties put forth by William Howard Taft, and he urged an alliance between the United States and the United Kingdom. But just as in 1914, when he tried to make the Germans be reasonable and peaceful, nobody listened to Grey, so in 1911, when he tried to make the world reasonable, none listened to Grey.

Viscount Grey was born fifty-seven years ago in Northumberland. He studied at Winchester and at Balliol College, Oxford University, and after graduation entered politics.



Viscount Grey

Wayside Points of View

On the Trail of the High Cost of Living

The Difference

HOG prices are lower. Little change in hoggyish prices. —Toledo Blade.

And Hopes Hard!

The ultimate consumer hopes that at least he is now paying the ultimate high prices.—Arkansas Gazette.

Speaking of Lamb

Lamb ought immediately to drop in price, judging by the awful slaughter now in progress in Wall Street.—Buffalo Express.

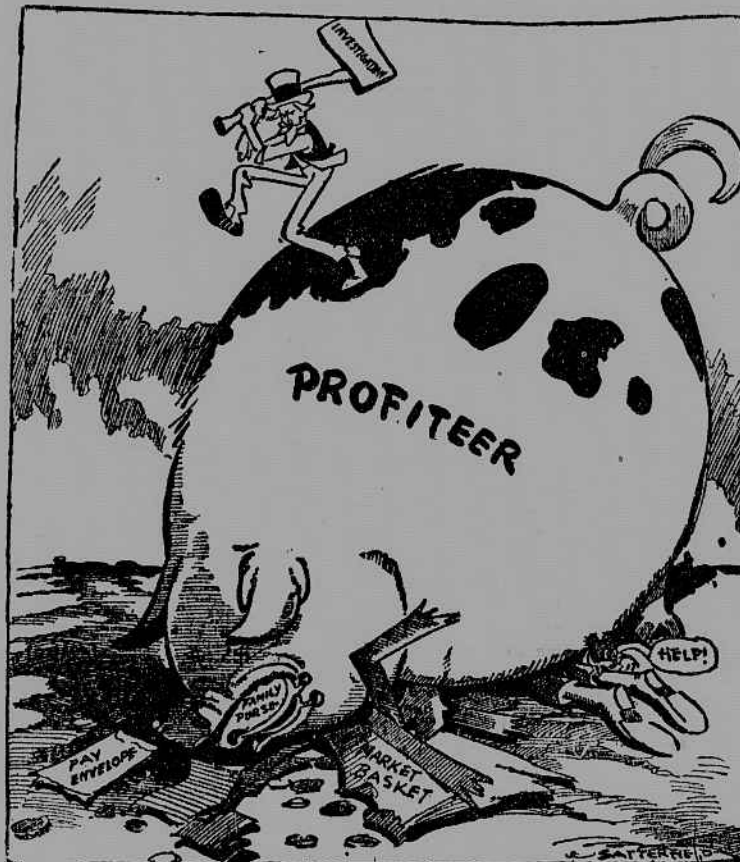
Think of It!

It is announced that the army has enough shoes to last five years. How would you like to be the army?—Providence Journal.

Yes, Roses Still Have Thorns

Just as hope dawns of cheaper food there comes word of a jump in Cuban sugar and a scarcity of honey in Macomb County. Sad, bitter sweets.—Detroit Free Press.

Make him squeal, uncle!



—From The Wisconsin State Journal

Lucky Lawyers!

Looks as if the lawyers will be able to meet the cost of living for a spell!—Baltimore American.

The Last Ditch

If things keep on the way they're going, it may be necessary to adopt government control of Washington, D. C.—Cleveland News.

Or to Roast the Pig

Strikes as a means of reducing the cost of living are about as sensible as burning down the house to keep warm.—Washington Post.

Quite!

The actors who have gone on strike doubtless bank on the memory that theirs was declared an essential occupation.—Milwaukee Journal.

Is Colombia Playing a Holdup Game?

"Better late than never," says Colombia



—From The Tacoma Ledger

THE fight over the payment of \$25,000,000 to Colombia for American canal privileges in Panama has been revived again, and, judging from the tone of the press comment in the United States, the question is a long way from settlement. Colombia's recently announced intention to nationalize its oil properties, thereby excluding any concessions or encouragement to American operatives in search of new and needed petroleum sources, is having the effect of creating suspicion against the Latin nation.

"Two sandbags are being employed by Colombia instead of one," observes "The Chicago Tribune," which further says:

"Colombia wants from the United States \$25,000,000 because we built a

world institution, the Panama Canal, which Colombia never could have built and which Colombia would have prevented had it been possible. If we pay the \$25,000,000, it is hush money. It is no good disguising it."

"But now we get the surprising information that Colombia proposes to nationalize its oil properties, and that this is only a project to eject American oil concessionaires, so that eventually a British syndicate may be allowed the whole Colombian national oil business."

"The Senate Committee has withdrawn the bill to pay Colombia \$25,000,000. Obviously the reason for this is to use it as an argument with the Colombians in favor of permitting Americans to retain their property rights."

"The \$25,000,000 bribe seemed to have had poor support in the Senate, so the Colombians fortified their Panama complaint with the oil concession threat. They were only disposed to be peevish about Panama; vicious and cantankerous toward American enterprises next."

"If there ever was a reason for paying the \$25,000,000, it has utterly vanished under this new turn of events."

"The Brooklyn Eagle" also signs of new friction with the Central American state. An editorial from this paper says:

"With the most expert geologists and financiers of the world interesting themselves in new areas of petroleum and an open question in the northern part of South America whether the Royal Dutch-Shell interests now owned by the British Government or American interests shall come into control of such sources as may be discovered, we cannot afford to take any chances with Colombia. Treachery at Bogota is to be feared. We know what that meant in the negotiation over Panama."

"A Colombian decree stating that oil sources, like a Mexican decree of like effect, is not open to foreign attack except as it affects past concessions or property rights, unless it is in the future made a means of discriminating against Americans in other concessions. But fair play we must and will have, in Colombia as in Mexico."

"The Kansas City Times" evinces little sympathy for the payment when it remarks:

"Pending an investigation of the reported intention of Colombia to seize American oil lands in that country, valued at \$5,000,000, the United States Senate has decided to postpone action upon the Colombian bill."

"Possibly Colombia has overplayed its hand in the holdup game. Nations, like individuals, sometimes do overplay their hands. Still, it is difficult to understand why the Senate, which showed little signs of backing at giving Colombia \$25,000,000 for graft in Panama, should hesitate at a little thing like the grab of another \$25,000,000 in oil."

"But, anyway, if Colombia has overstepped the bounds, to the disgust of the good old Senate, it has rendered this country a good turn in saving it from the humiliating spectacle of submitting to the payment of a dishonest claim merely to 'get rid of' a persistent highwayman."

"The Detroit Free Press" registers disgust at the whole question of settlement with Colombia. This paper declares that "as originally drawn, the treaty was too maskishly snuffed-toned to render it even worth consideration."

Ralph Blakelock Passes

IT IS singularly ironical that not a day apart there died one of America's richest men and one who in his frequent moments of delusion believed that he was America's richest man. One was Andrew Carnegie, leaving behind him an inspiring career of success and hundreds of millions for philanthropy. The other was Ralph Blakelock, a

penniless old man, living on the kindness of friends, his brain strained and disordered, yet leaving a legacy to the world of art that cannot be measured by the large financial value placed upon it. Not that Blakelock received any of this money. In the '90s he left the world for a state asylum, bankrupt even of his talent, his landscapes

hardly appreciated except by his few friends.

For it was not lack of appreciation that drove Blakelock from his eminence of surpassing genius as a master of landscape to a corner in a state institution. It was solely lack of money. Worried and harried day by day to find the means of keeping his large family clothed and alive, the strain was too great for his temperament.



Ralph Blakelock

The Week at Home

Patience!



—From The Memphis Commercial Appeal

The cost of living continued during the last week to be the absorbing topic for discussion. Among those whom the problem hits in its practical aspects by reason of the emaciated weekly pay envelope the feeling seemed to be that it was a great misfortune for so much energy to be devoted to discussion and so little to action. A. B. Garretson, adviser to the Order of Railway Conductors, said to the House Interstate and Foreign Commerce Committee: "If you think the social crust can't be broken you are mistaken. Inaction is sure to bring ferment to a head. Unless relief is found from the unreasonable pressure of living conditions we are bound to have trouble." Mr. Garretson told the committee the labor leaders of the country are "sitting on the lid" to keep their men in check.

As soon as the strike of railroad shopmen is terminated the President is expected to advance railroad wages to meet the demands of the men, and, at the same time, to advance rates to meet the new charges caused by the advance in wages. Shopmen were reported returning to work all over the country. Meanwhile, the representatives of the men in Washington continued to advocate before Congress the adoption of the Plumb plan. The opinions of both Representatives and Senators, however, continued to be against the plan. The War Labor Board, at its last meeting, before ceasing to exist, granted a 12 per cent increase in wages to the employees of twelve street railway systems in

cities from New England to the Pacific Coast.

Both the Senate and the House began committee investigations of the cost of living, while the Department of Justice prepared to make the greatest possible use of publicity to fight high prices pending special legislation by Congress. Secretary Glass, with the approval of the President, asked for an additional appropriation of \$50,000 to make the Secret Service available to help the Department of Justice in the search for food hoarders. The Federal Trade Commission asked for \$500,000 to carry on inquiries directed by Congress and the President into profiteering and unfair business practices by corporations and to give publicity to the results of the inquiries.

The War Department is preparing to sell its surplus supplies of clothing direct to the people through the parcel post or by the help of municipal markets. A downward revision of the prices of surplus army foodstuffs was made by the War Department in order to meet the efforts of retail dealers to interfere with the ready sale of army supplies. Leather dealers and shoe manufacturers in Boston predicted a decided drop in the price of shoes.

Governor Smith appointed John H. Finley, State Commissioner of Education, and ex-Governor Martin H. Glynn, to investigate the causes of the present cost of living in this state and suggest remedies, while Arthur Williams, Federal Food Administrator during the war, was called on by Attorney General

Palmer to lead in New York the national fight against the cost of living.

While all these preparations to do something were being made the packers again demonstrated the axiom of John Sherman, "The way to resume is to resume." They boosted the prices of meat all along the line.

The C. P. emitted screams of anguish to which the Administration responded with animated gestures and an increased flow of conversation.

Among other things that the state and Federal authorities have under discussion is the prosecution of profiteering landlords. It was reported that the authorities were talking about preparing to get ready for a serious consideration of the problem.

The actors' strike closed eleven out of twenty-two shows in New York. The producers' association threatened damage suits for \$500,000 against the actors, and the actors responded by employing ex-Attorney General George W. Wickersham to represent them and getting the chorus girls to join the union. The strike spread to Chicago, where two theatres were closed, and Boston was also threatened.

also charged that Interborough officials were conspiring with their employees to bring about a strike. The special grand jury called by the Governor to investigate seditious activities in this state indicted Gustave Alonen for criminal anarchy. Alonen was indicted on account of his supposed connection with a Finnish magazine published in New York that has advocated bloody revolution.

Opponents of the peace treaty and the league of nations in the Senate plan to send the treaty back to Versailles with an amendment striking out the Shantung section and with at least four reservations to the league covenant. Senator Lodge made a prepared speech in the Senate against the treaty and when Senators Williams and Hitchcock replied to him they were hissed by the galleries.

The investigation of Mexican affairs to be started by Senator Fall, of New Mexico, is expected to end in a demand for armed intervention in Mexico.

Andrew Carnegie died from bronchial pneumonia at his home near Lenox, Mass. He was in his eighty-fourth year.

Ralph Blakelock, the artist who became famous after he was declared insane, died from arteriosclerosis at a camp near Elliptical town, in the Adirondacks. He was seventy-one years old.

The Prince of Wales arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland, on his American visit. He was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

The Red Cross plans a campaign for \$15,000,000 to last from November 3 to 11.